

Food Control Advisory Committee.

2. *MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Devicolam*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Food Control Advisory Committee recently constituted by them ever met, and when?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Food Grains Purchase Officer*): Yes; on the 28th June 1943.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know from Government whether the committee came to any definite conclusion on any specific matter?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: Yes, Sir. They were of the opinion that excess purchase must be immediately carried on more effectively and that for that purpose the local committees must be reconstituted wherever they are not properly functioning and that where they do not now exist they may be immediately constituted in consultation with the members of the Legislature in the respective taluks. The committee also came to the conclusion that the present system of purchase on acreage basis may be modified and the quota purchase effected on the basis of the settlement pattom. The proceedings of the committee are published in the book entitled "Food Control in Travancore" copies of which have been supplied to the members of the Legislature. The matter is dealt with from pages 58 to 61.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Thiruvalla*): May I know whether anything has been decided as to the distribution of stock on hand?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: The question of distribution has not been considered at that meeting, but it was decided that the matter would be considered at the next meeting.

Control of the price of meals in hotels.

3. *MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN (*Chirayinkil cum Neduman-gad*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have imposed any conditions about the price of meals etc., in the hotels to which they sell rice and sugar?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: No.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: Are the Government aware that the price of meals in the hotels is excessive?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: No. Government are not aware.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: May I know whether Government will kindly enquire into that matter?

PRESIDENT: What is the answer which the honourable member suggests in respect of this question?

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: There is a complaint from the public that many hotel managers are charging high rates for meals. It is better that Government put a control in that matter.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: Government have not considered the question of exercising control over the hotels in the matter of meals.